5th March 1926]

A.—(*a*) Yes, in cases of poverty and subject to certain limits which vary according to sanctioning authority.

(*b*) No distinction is made between depressed classes and others.

(*c*) & (*d*) No. The remission is left to the discretion of the local revenue officers.

(*e*) The Government are not aware of the facts of the case referred to.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*) ' in cases of poverty and subject to certain limits which vary according to sanctioning authority ' may I know what are those limits ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I am afraid I must ask for notice. A Tahsildar can sanction up to a certain sum, a Divisional Officer up to a certain higher sum. I do not know what exactly are the limits. Will the hon. Member put a fresh question ? "

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether the Government do not think it advisable to make general exemptions in the case of depressed classes, whenever the tree valuation does not exceed Rs. 50 or some such amount ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Having regard to the general poverty of the depressed classes, will the Government be pleased to examine the question whether the rules can be modified that in the case of depressed classes (Mr. R. Veerian : Hear, hear) the tree valuation need not be collected until they are in a position to pay the valuation ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I have no objection to have that question examined if it has not been examined already."

Assignment of lands to Adi-Dravidas of Nadupatti village.

* 1535 *Q.*—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that about seventy Adi-Dravida families in the village of Nadupatti, Omalur taluk, Salem district, are without any land of their own for cultivation ;

(*b*) whether any steps were taken on the petition submitted by them during the month of January 1926 to the District Collector, Salem, praying for assignments of lands which adjoin the reserve forest in their village on darkhast ; and

(*c*) why the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Routine No. 1187, Press, dated 5th March 1925, regarding the matter of publication in villages of lists of lands available for assignment to the members of the depressed classes were not given practical effect to in this village ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A letter on the subject received from the hon. Member was forwarded to the Collector of Salem and the hon. Member informed accordingly.

(*c*) The Government are not aware that the Board's instructions have not been carried out.

Mr. R. Veerian :—"With reference to the answer to clause (c) may I bring to the notice of the Government that in several districts the instructions are not practically carried out. Will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to ascertain whether the instructions are practically carried out and to issue further instructions that the proceedings of the Board of Revenue should be practically given effect to?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"I think it is only a month or two ago that, in deference to the hon. Member's insistence on the matter, I issued a circular to the Board of Revenue and to Collectors on the subject. I think it is too early to issue further exhortations."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"May I know whether these instructions include the grant of lands which have been given on cowl or patta to other castemen who have cleared prickly-pear, etc., and made the land cultivable?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"Those lands are not available for being granted to other people."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"As a matter of fact, I know Sir, that cowl lands are being given on darkhast. I know of cases where such lands were given to other people such as sepoys, etc., after the cowl period. I ask whether his instructions relate to the grant of the lands given on cowl and which are cleared of prickly-pear and made cultivable to other people."

The hon the President :—"That is a separate question."

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"The circular was regarding the list of lands available for distribution. The hon. Member for Coimbatore refers to lands which are given for a certain period on sivayijama or cowl and says that they are assigned or reserved for the depressed classes. I think he ought to be aware that that should not be done."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"I refer to cowl lands."

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"They ought not to be assigned to other people."

Mr. R. Veerian :—"The instructions were issued in March 1925 regarding the publication of the list of lands in villages available for assignment. It is nearly a year. Does the hon. the Revenue Member still think that it is too early to issue further instructions?"

The hon. the President :—"The hon. the Revenue Member says that the instructions were issued only two months ago."

Mr. R. Veerian :—"My point is this. The original instructions of the Board of Revenue were issued on the 5th March 1925. It is nearly a year. The instructions have not been carried out practically. The hon. the Revenue Member said that it was too early to send now further instructions. I ask, Sir, whether it is too early now."

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"I do not know why the matter is not clear to my hon. Friend. It was only a month or two ago that the hon. Member gave me information that the instructions were not followed and at his instance I issued further instructions. Surely, he is aware of that fact. I do not know how I can explain further."